

FORESTRY EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE

**For Washington
Forest Landowners**



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Helping You Put Knowledge To Work

Prepared by David M. Baumgartner and Donald P. Hanley, Washington State University Cooperative Extension, and Steve Gibbs, Washington Department of Natural Resources.

INTRODUCTION

Forestry education and assistance programs are available to Washington forest landowners from a variety of sources. The three major sources are as follows:

1. Public—sponsored by different governmental agencies.
2. Private—provided by consulting foresters for a fee.
3. Associations—made up of forest landowners or related interests.

Whatever your situation, there is probably an organization or individual that can be of help to you. Publications, educational programs, technical advice, financial assistance, and owners associations are all available to help you manage your forestland.

PUBLIC FORESTRY EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Cooperative Extension, Washington State University

Cooperative Extension is a three-way partnership among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington State University, and county government, all sharing, planning, and financing extension work. Extension agents have the latest in scientific information from state and federal research centers, and the know-how to convert it to practical, down-to-earth solutions to forest land problems. Specialists are available in most areas, including farming and equipment, wholesaling and transportation, veterinary science, and finances. Extension also sponsors the 4-H programs in Washington State, helping youth from all races, incomes, and locations to develop into fine adults and responsible citizens.

Extension provides out-of-school training in multiple-use forest management, including protection, recreation, special forest products, Christmas tree production, windbreak planting, harvesting, business management, developing stewardship plans, and wildlife habitat enhancement. Cooperative Extension also offers forestry publications that provide information on forest management, taxation, reforestation, fuelwood, record keeping, harvest methods, insects and diseases, and other topics of interest.

County Extension agents are local representatives of Cooperative Extension and Washington State University, the state land-grant university. For assistance or information about extension and forestry, contact your county Cooperative Extension office, listed under “County Government” in your local telephone directory. You may also request information about programs, landowner workshops, and publications on the WSU Natural Resource Sciences Cooperative Extension homepage:

ext.nrs.wsu.edu/

To obtain WSU Cooperative Extension publications or a catalog of educational materials, contact your local WSU Cooperative Extension office:

Bulletins

Washington State University
P.O. Box 645912
Pullman, WA 99164-5912
1-800-723-1763
509-335-2857

E-mail: bulletin@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu

Web site: <http://pubs.wsu.edu>

WSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

COUNTY EXTENSION FORESTRY

Arno Bergstrom, Kitsap County
WSU Cooperative Extension
614 Division St., MS-16
Port Orchard, WA 98366-4676
360-337-7225; Fax: 360-337-4864
awbergstrom@wsu.edu
x (Kitsap, Pierce)

Peter Griessmann, Stevens County
WSU Cooperative Extension
985 S. Elm, Ste A
Colville, WA 99114-2662
509-684-2588; Fax: 509-684-9790
pgriessm@wsu.edu
x (Ferry, Pend Oreille, Stevens)

Ole Helgerson, Skamania County
WSU Cooperative Extension
Courthouse, P.O. Box 790
Stevenson, WA 98648
509-427-9427; Fax: 509-427-4165
helgerso@wsu.edu
x (Clark, Klickitat, Skamania)

Stephen Sax, King County
Forest Stewardship Advisor
WSU Cooperative Extension
500 SW 7th St., Ste A200
Renton, WA 98055-2917
206-205-3100; Fax: 206-296-0952
x (King)

Steve Webster, Lewis County
WSU Cooperative Extension
360 NW North St., MS: AES01
Chehalis, WA 98532-1900
360-740-1214; Fax: 360-740-2792
websters@wsu.edu
x (Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum)

COUNTY EXTENSION NATURALIST

John Munn, Snohomish County
WSU Cooperative Extension
600 128th St. SE
Everett, WA 98208
425-357-6017; Fax: 425-338-3994
munnj@wsu.edu
x (All counties)

STATE EXTENSION FORESTERS

David M. Baumgartner
WSU Cooperative Extension Forester
Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences
131 Johnson Hall
P.O. Box 646410
Pullman, WA 99164-6410
509-335-2964; Fax: 509-335-2878
baumgtmr@wsu.edu

Donald P. Hanley
WSU Cooperative Extension Forester
College of Forest Resources
University of Washington
Box 352100
Seattle, WA 98195-2100
206-685-4960; Fax: 206-685-0790
dhanley@u.washington.edu

COLOCKUM RESEARCH & EXTENSION UNIT

Tom Brannon
WSU Cooperative Extension
Extension Associate
Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences
Colockum Research & Extension Unit
8774 Colockum Rd.
Malaga, WA 98828
509-663-6400
brannont@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu

SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS

Jim Freed
Statewide Special Forest Products
& Area Forestry Agent
Located @ DNR Resource Protection
P.O. Box 47037
1111 Washington St., SE - 4th Floor
Olympia, WA 98504-7037
360-902-1314; Fax: 360-902-1781
freedj@wsu.edu
x (Thurston, Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap)

STATE WATERSHED SPECIALIST

James P. Dobrowolski
WSU Cooperative Extension
Watershed Specialist
Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences
129 Johnson Hall
P.O. Box 646410
Pullman, WA 99164-6410
509-335-7294; Fax: 509-335-2878
dobrowol@wsu.edu

STATE RANGE SPECIALIST

Linda H. Hardesty
WSU Cooperative Extension
Range Specialist
Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences
121 Johnson Hall
P.O. Box 646410
Pullman, WA 99164-6410
509-335-6632; Fax: 509-335-7862
lhardest@mail.wsu.edu

WILDLIFE

Janean H. Creighton
WSU Cooperative Extension
Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences
131 Johnson Hall
P.O. Box 646410
Pullman, WA 99164-6410
509-335-2877; Fax: 509-335-2878
creighton@wsu.edu

PLANT RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Scott Lambert
USDA-NRCS
Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences
Washington State University
P.O. Box 646410
Pullman, WA 99164-6410
509-335-4916; Fax: 509-335-7862
lamberts@wsu.edu

WOOD PRODUCTS

Don Bender, Director
Wood Materials and Engineering Lab
Washington State University
P.O. Box 641806
Pullman, WA 99164-1806
509-335-4916; Fax: 509-335-7237
bender@wsu.edu

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Forest Stewardship Program

The Washington Department of Natural Resources provides direct one-on-one assistance to forest landowners through its Forest Stewardship Program. This program is cooperatively funded by DNR and the USDA Forest Service. The DNR stewardship foresters evaluate current forest conditions and suggest management practices to meet the landowner's objectives. Consultations with the forest stewardship wildlife biologist is also available upon request. Advice is available on growing and harvesting timber, enhancing and protecting fish and wildlife habitat, forest protection and other topics of interest to landowners. DNR stewardship foresters can provide referrals to consulting foresters, loggers, and contractors to help landowners successfully complete management practices.

DNR foresters also provide field inspection for forestry cost-sharing programs. For more information, contact the DNR region office where your property is located. All DNR offices can be reached at 1-800-527-3305.

Backyard Forest Stewardship Program

Designed to help woodland homeowners on small acreages, this program offers a free Backyard Forest Stewardship/Wildlife Safety information kit. Call 1-888-STEWKIT to have a copy mailed to you or view the on-line version at the website listed below.

Web site: www.wa.gov/dnr/ click on
"assistance/partnerships"

E-mail: forest_stewardship@wadnr.gov

Other Services for Landowners

DNR Webster Forest Nursery 360-753-5305
or Toll-free 1-877-890-2626
Tree seedling sales.

DNR Photo and Map Sales 360-902-1234
Aerial photos, topographic maps,
and other products.

DNR Region Locations

Central Region

1405 Rush Rd.
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-748-2383 or
1-800-527-3305 then press 1-1-1

Northeast Region

225 S. Silke Rd.
Colville, WA 99114
509-684-7474 or
1-800-527-3305 then press 1-1-6

Northwest Region

919 N. Township St.
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
360-856-3500 or
1-800-527-3305 then press 1-1-3

Olympic Region

411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA 98331
360-374-6131 or
1-800-527-3305 then press 1-1-4

South Puget Sound Region

950 Farman St., North
Enumclaw, WA 98022
360-825-1631 or
1-800-527-3305 then press 1-1-2

Southeast Region

713 E. Bowers Rd
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-925-8510 or
1-800-527-3305 then press 1-1-7

Southwest Region

DNR Stewardship Forester located @

USDA Service Center
2125 8th Ave.
Longview, WA 98632
360-578-0728 or
360-425-1880

Washington Small Forest Landowner Office

In 2000, the Small Forest Landowner Office was created within the Forest Practices Division of the Washington Department of Natural Resources to address issues and concerns of the nonindustrial private forest landowners and family forests. This office provides technical expertise on managing forest land in or near riparian zones, wetlands, and

other sensitive areas. Other responsibilities include: administering the Forestry Riparian Easement Program, the development of incentive programs to encourage landowner use of conservation-based forest management practices according to the state and federal environmental regulations, the development of alternative harvest and management plans, and the compiling of statistics on small forest landowners and their holdings. For more information, contact the office at 360-902-1389 or 1-800-527-3305.

Washington Conservation Districts (WCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Washington Conservation Districts can help landowners plan for the proper use of their land. The purpose of such plans are to coordinate the management of all resources found on the property including wildlife, water habitat, timber, and soils.

The Conservation Districts are local coordinators with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The NRCS provides technical assistance in developing resource management plans. Included in these plans are specific recommendations for achieving a landowner's short- and long-term needs, his/her objectives and economic goals, and proper use of the natural resources present on the property. Advice for increasing the productivity of forest land, as well as increasing economic returns, also is offered.

During the planning process, Conservation District personnel may enlist the technical services of farm foresters, consulting foresters, and NRCS foresters to incorporate their recommendations into the plan.

Local NRCS/Conservation District offices are listed under "U.S. Government - Department of Agriculture" or "County Government" pages in your telephone directory.

NRCS Web site:
wcp.wsu.edu/nrcs/

Conservation Districts Web site:
www.nacdnet.org/resources/WA.htm

STATE FOREST TAX ASSISTANCE

Washington Department of Revenue

Professional foresters are available in Department of Revenue offices on Mondays for harvester assistance and to answer questions covering state taxes on timber, as well as taxes on private forest land. Check your telephone directory under "State Government" listings.

Web site:
dor.wa.gov/index.asp?//wador.htm



PRIVATELY SUPPORTED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Farm Credit Services

Farm Credit Services is a nationwide system of cooperatively owned banks and associations organized into twelve Farm Credit Districts. Each district has a Federal Land Bank, a Federal Intermediated Credit Bank and a Bank for Cooperatives.

Spokane is the district headquarters office for the four Northwest states and Alaska. Offices are located throughout the district to serve the borrower's long- or short-term credit needs. Corporate Headquarters, 509-838-9300.

PUBLICLY SUPPORTED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies offer cost-share programs which can partially reimburse forest landowners for a variety of practices. To be eligible, landowners must apply and have received approval before any work begins.

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)

The purpose of this program is to encourage improved timber production on nonindustrial private forest lands. Practices include: planting nonforested or understocked lands; control of animal damage and competing vegetation; precommercial thinning; and pruning. Apply at your local NRCS office serving the county where the land is located. The Washington DNR provides the field service.

Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP)*

The purpose of this program is to encourage integrated resource management on nonindustrial private forest lands. Practices include: forest stewardship plan development; afforestation; forest stand improvement; windbreaks; erosion control; riparian and wetland enhancement; fish habitat enhancement; wildlife habitat enhancement; and recreation and aesthetics. This program is funded by the USDA Forest Service with operational authority delegated to Washington DNR. Apply at your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office serving the county where the land is located.

Local FSA offices are listed under "U.S. Government - Department of Agriculture" in your telephone directory.

FSA Web site: www.fsa.usda.gov/

**At the time of publication, Congress had discontinued new funding for SIP, and the future of the program is uncertain. Check with DNR or FSA for current information.*

Forestry Riparian Easement Program

The Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) provides compensation to qualifying small forest landowners in exchange for a 50-year easement on "qualifying timber." This is the timber that the landowner is required to leave unharvested near streams, rivers, and wetlands as a result of the new rules protecting Washington's forests and fish. Compensation for the easement is paid at 50% of the current fair market value of the qualifying timber.

To apply for this program, contact the Washington DNR office in the region where the land is located and request a Forest Practices application. Mark "Forest Riparian Easement" on the application and contact the regional Small Forest Landowner Office forester.



PRIVATE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Consulting Foresters Directory

Cooperative Extension and the Department of Natural Resource Sciences provides a list of consulting forests in Washington and neighboring states. The list is located on the WSU Department of Natural Resource Sciences Cooperative Extension homepage: ext.nrs.wsu.edu/direct.htm

If you do not have on-line access, contact your local county extension office or DNR Region office and ask for a hard copy of the directory.

The **Association of Consulting Foresters** provides a membership directory. To belong to the association, a consulting forester must meet certain educational and experience requirements. The association endorses the professional qualifications of the foresters in this directory. To obtain a copy of the directory, write to:

Association of Consulting Foresters

732 N. Washington St., Suite 4-A

Arlington, VA 22314

703-548-0990

Web site: www.acf-foresters.com

How to Choose a Consultant*

A consultant's business is based on satisfied clients. The person or company you hire should represent and serve your best interests in all matters concerning your timberlands.

The consultant's fees may be based on the acreage of timberland involved; a percentage of the revenues from sales; dollars per-thousand board foot product; amount of time required to perform the job; or in the case of tree planting the dollars per 1,000 seedlings planted. Cost should be one consideration in choosing a consultant, but a forester's experience, performance record, and understanding of your objectives are equally important.

There is no single best way to manage forest land. Goals and objectives of landowners vary widely. Choose a consultant who understands your needs and with whom you feel comfortable. Determine a consultant's qualifications by requesting information from the consultant and references from several of the consultant's clients. Compare this information and estimates of costs from several consultants before choosing the one you would like to work with. The knowledge and experience of consulting foresters vary widely. There are no legal standards governing consultants in Washington.

As in any business arrangement, be aware of competing loyalties. Some foresters may be employed as timber buyers for forest products companies; others are associated with such companies or have potential conflict of interest involving other clients. The consultant is ethically bound to inform you of any possible conflicts of interest or even an appearance of such conflicts.

Once you have selected a consultant, sign an agreement or contract. This should include a list of services, how they are to be performed, and who will perform them. For example, if boundaries are to be marked, who will search the records for property descriptions? Who will obtain the necessary permits, such as the forest practice application? If timber is to be sold, will it be by competitive bid, negotiated bid, or contract logging? How often will the consultant check during harvesting to assure that the job is done correctly? How will the volume of timber sold be figured out and by whom? If a fuelwood sale is a possibility during or after the harvest who will receive the proceeds?

National and regional shortages of energy and high quality timber are improving the economics for growing wood. If landowners commit themselves to sound land management practices, growing timber will produce short- and long-term financial benefits. Hiring a consultant can help your timber reach its greatest potential, if you select your consultant wisely.

*Adapted from 1994 Montana Consultant Foresters Montana, March 1994,
compiled by Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, Mark J. Lennon

Industrial Forestry Programs

Some companies within the forest products industry offer landowners technical assistance in managing their forestlands. Each company program differs in the amount of assistance provided and the terms under which the assistance is given.

Check with your local WSU Cooperative Extension office or DNR Stewardship Forester to see if these services are available in your area.

Washington Contract Loggers Association

The Washington Contract Loggers Association trains and accredits loggers. Call or visit the web site for a current listing of Accredited Loggers.

Washington Contract Loggers Association

P.O. Box 2168
Olympia, WA 98507-2168
360-352-5033
1-800-422-0074

Web site: www.loggers.com/

Tree Farm System

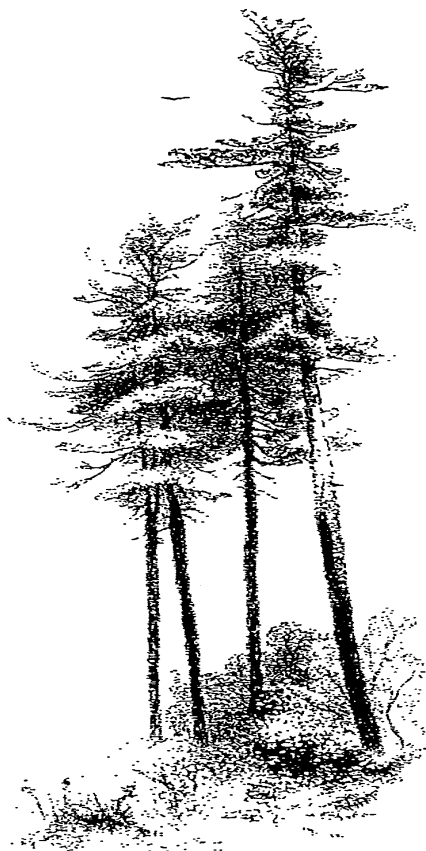
The Tree Farm System is sponsored by the forest industry as a way to recognize, publicize, and encourage the management of private forest land. It is an honorary designation for privately owned land managed for the growth and harvest of repeated forest crops and adequately protected from fire, insects, disease, and destructive grazing. Tree Farms are often managed for wildlife and aesthetics as well as timber production.

Prospective Tree Farms are certified by a forester after an inspection of the woodland acreage. Existing Tree Farms are inspected every 5 years. Unmanaged woodland is acceptable as a "Pioneer Tree Farm" if the owner has a written management plan prepared by a forester and states his/her intent to follow the plan. Participants in the Tree Farm Program receive a sign, certificate, and subscription to the national Tree Farmer magazine. There is no cost to the landowner. For information contact:

Washington Forestry Protection Association (WFPA)

724 Columbia St. NW, Suite 250
Olympia, WA 98501-1291
360-352-1500

Web site: www.treefarmsystem.org



FORESTRY AND CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATIONS

Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA)

The Washington Farm Forestry Association is a federation of county or area associations. The association promotes the sound management of small timber tracts through local meetings, newsletters, field trips, seminars, and scholarships. The association, governed and financed by small woodland owners, serves to voice the concerns of small woodland owners on such issues as forest taxation, forest land use planning, and other legislation. Members receive *Northwest Woodlands* magazine. Most forested counties have local farm forestry associations that are affiliates of the state association. For more information contact:

Washington Farm Forestry Association

P.O. Box 7663
Olympia, WA 98507
360-459-0984

Web site: home1.gte.net/wbforest/wffa

National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA)

National Woodland Owners Association is a nationwide organization of nonindustrial private woodland owners with offices in the Washington, DC area. Membership includes landowners in all 50 states. NWOA is affiliated with state and county woodland owners associations throughout the U.S. Members receive the *National Woodlands* magazine (quarterly) and eight issues of *Woodland Report*.

National Woodland Owners Association

374 Maple Ave. East, Suite 210
Vienna, VA 22180
703-255-2700

Web site: www.wood-land.org/

American Forests

American Forests is a national conservation organization—independent and nonpolitical—for the advancement of intelligent management and use of our forests, soil, water, wildlife, and all other natural resources necessary for an environment of high quality and the well-being of all citizens. Established in 1875, the association seeks, through its magazine, *American Forests*, and in other ways, to promote and enlighten public appreciation of natural resources and their role in the social, recreational, and economic life of the nation. For more information contact:

American Forests

1319 18th St. NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-467-5810
or 1-800-368-5748

Web site: www.americanforests.org/

Society of American Foresters (SAF)

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it now includes nearly 18,000 members. It is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

Society of American Foresters

5400 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-897-8720

National Web site:
www.safnet.org/

State Web site:
www.waforestry.org/

National Christmas Tree Association

The National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) represents more than 5,100 Christmas Tree Professionals and promotes the use of real Christmas trees. Its work focuses on promotion and research, federal representation, and professional education. For more information contact:

National Christmas Tree Association

1000 Executive Parkway, Suite 220
St. Louis, MO 63141-6372
Phone: 314-205-0944
Fax: 314-576-7989
Email: info@realchristmastrees.org

Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association

The Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association provides Christmas tree growers the opportunity to share ideas and solve common problems. Three annual meetings are held: a meeting in the fall focuses on marketing and provides exhibits of machinery and supplies; a shortcourse in winter covers Christmas tree growing, selling, and marketing; and a meeting in the spring features tours to Christmas tree farms. Members also receive a quarterly magazine. For more information contact:

Northwest Christmas Tree Association

P.O. Box 3366
Salem, OR 97302
503-364-2942
Web site: www.nwtrees.com

Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association

The Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association is an association of growers, retailers, suppliers, and Cooperative Extension personnel of eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, northern Idaho, and western Montana who work together to solve their problems and develop a sound Christmas tree industry. For more information contact:

Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association

P.O. Box 235
Garfield, WA 99130-0235
509-635-1272



Internet Sites with Information and Links to Other Useful Sites for Forest Landowners :

Washington State University Natural Resource Sciences Cooperative Extension:

ext.nrs.wsu.edu/



**Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship and
Backyard Forest Stewardship Programs:**

www.wa.gov/dnr/ click on “assistance/partnerships”

E-mail: forest_stewardship@wadnr.gov



College of Agriculture and Home Economics

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